

K6YQT

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 50 NUMBER 12 December 2001

W6OTX

PAARAgraphs



Celebrating 64 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- December....7, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- December...12, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- January.....4, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- January.....9, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- February.....1, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- February.....6, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30

2 m **CODE PRACTICE**, 2000 to 2030 PST Tues
N6NFI 145.23 repeater

Also try 7.100 for 24 hr code practice



PROGRAM

December 7, 2001 7:30 P.M.

Auction Notes:

See Auction Flyer (Insert, page 103)

7:30 to 8:00 PM Regular meeting and election of 2002 officers and directors
7:30 to 8:00 PM Auction setup and registration
8:00 to 9:00 PM Auction
9:00 to 9:30 PM Auction settlement and cleanup
PAARA members can have their ham equipment, parts, kits, etc. auctioned for a 20% fee.
Anyone may donate items to PAARA for the auction or for the PAARA Table (small items).
See the simple buying and selling rules in the flyer. No admission fee or table charges.
Doug, K1DIT, has several items for sale that he does not want to ship to Washington (see list on insert back). Unsold items will be auctioned off on 12/7/01 (except the Porsche).

New Pacific Division Assistant Directors

By Vic Black, AB6SO

At the PAARA November meeting, ARRL Pacific Division Director **Jim Maxwell W6CF** announced that he had only appointed one Assistant Director up to that time: **Brad Wyatt K6WR**, the former Director and November's PAARA guest speaker. At the PAARA meeting, Jim announced that he had chosen two PAARA members to become new Assistant Directors. He appointed **Andy Korsak KR6DD** and **Steve Stearns K6OIK** citing their technical achievements and contributions to the ARRL. Maxwell, Korsak and Stearns all are PhDs and well suited for their positions. Andy and Steve join two other PAARA ARRL appointees, PAARA President **Andreas Junge N6NU** and former PAARA Vice President **Dr. Jon Zweig AD6FX**, the DXCC Field QSL Card Examiners for Northern California.

The Pacific Division of the ARRL includes the State of California from the Oregon border on the north to the lower end of the San Joaquin Valley (Kern Co.); the counties of Alpine and Mono along the Nevada border east of the Sierra Nevada mountains and south of Lake Tahoe; and the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey along the Pacific Ocean south of San Francisco. In addition, the Pacific Division includes all of the States of Nevada and Hawaii and the U. S. Pacific Ocean islands to the west, such as American Samoa, Guam, Saipan, and the Mariana Islands. U. S. military bases and other facilities using AP ZIP Codes are also part of the Pacific Division.

Congratulations to all!!

FREE GOURMET COFFEE

and

FREE GOURMET COOKIES

Bring Your Equipment and money for the auction

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

at Su Hong Restaurant, 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting.
Those arriving late will be responsible for their own order and bill.

—PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:30 P.M., local time—
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off

Miscellaneous Dates

Flea Market at Foothill (info: <<http://www.electronicfleamarket.com>>)

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,
contact: Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843

FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society

meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,
contact: Sheldon Edelman N6RD, 650-858 2176, n6rd@earthlink.net

NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM,
contact: Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544.

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

meets 1st Sunday each month,
contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

Perham Foundation,

contact: (408) 734 4453.

SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz, www.specsnet.org
contact: Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441 specs@svpal.org

SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.
Net is on 144.45 & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.
contact:

SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU repeater 146.385+ Nets: 2m, W6UU, 7:30 Mon; 10m,
28.385, 8:00 Thur. meets 2nd Mon each month.
contact: Jack Ruckman AC6FU

SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+)
contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association

operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2
meets 3rd Wed every month.
contact: Glen Lokke Jr. KE6NBO at 408 971 8626, or glokke@pacbell.net

Disaster Services,

PALO ALTO CHAPTER, American Red Cross, www.paarc.org

400 Mitchell Lane
Meets 3rd Wed each month 7:30PM,
HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway,
contact: Mac Millian 650-688-0423. MACM@paarc.org

SAN JOSE CHAPTER, American Red Cross

contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924, FSHENSLEY@NOVELL.COM

VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA
contact: Al WB6IMX@att.net

Swap meet, LosPositas College, Livermore, 1st Sunday each month.

Contact: Cliff Kibbe (209) 835 6715 or Eliot Ross (925) 606 7710

(please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor: k6uro@arrl.net)

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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Board of Directors

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Joel Wilhite, KA7TXV (650) 325 8239 '01
ka7txv@qsl.net
Gerry Tucker, N6NV (650) 326 4908 '01

?? '02
(Pat Gormley, KB6HZM resigned, effective 11/7/01)

(see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

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Submit material for PAARAgaphs by the 15th

PAARA Website <http://www.qsl.net/paara/>

PAARAgaphs would like to include PICTURES
of area events and PAARA member activities.

Mail prints to: K6URO or

Better: e-mail to k6uro@arrl.net.

best form: 3" wide, 200dpi, jpeg

Contest Calendar ~Vic Black, AB6SO~

(for rules and exchanges, see www.contesting.com)

December, 2001

- 1,2 TARA RTTY Sprint 1800Z, Dec 1 - 0200Z, Dec 2
- 2,3 Tennessee QSO Party 1800Z, Dec 2 - 0100Z, Dec 3
- 2 QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Sprint 2000Z - 2400Z, Dec 2
- 7-9 ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z, Dec 7 - 1600Z, Dec 9
- 15,16 ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z, Dec 15 - 2400Z, Dec 16
- 15 OK DX RTTY Contest 0000Z - 2400Z, Dec 15
- 15,16 28 MHz SWL Contest 0000Z, Dec 15 - 2400Z, Dec 16
- 15,16 Croatian CW Contest 1400Z, Dec 15 - 1400Z, Dec 16
- 21 AGB Party Contest 2100Z - 2300Z, Dec 21
- 26 DARC Christmas Contest 0830Z - 1059Z, Dec 26
- 29 RAC Winter Contest 0000Z - 2400Z, Dec 29
- 29,30 Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z, Dec 29-1500Z, Dec 30

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO December 7th
gab & gobble

Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the
PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own
order and bill.

6 pm— at Su Hong Restau-
rant

1039 El Camino Real
Menlo Park

—across from Kepler's Book Store—





PAARA PONDERINGS de VIC BLACK, AB6SO

Newer HF transceivers are equipped with far more memories than most of us need or can use. Excess memories are included only because memory is very cheap so memory slots are virtually free, but count as additional marketing features on the radios. Most of us could get by with only a few memories. What do you use the rest for?

I spoke with **James Duffey KK6MC/5** from Albuquerque, NM who has figured out an interesting use for some of his excess memories. He said, "I have the Northern California DX Foundation HF beacons in sequential memories. That is 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, and 28.200 MHz. The worldwide network of beacons broadcasts on a schedule that has them moving from one band to another. When a particular beacon is finished on 20M it moves to 17M, then to 15M, 12M and finally 10M. By starting on 20M, and switching bands sequentially when the beacon stops transmitting, one can easily get a rough idea of the present Maximum Usable Frequency."

This is an interesting extension of the more common use of the beacons. Normally, they are used only to indicate what part of the world signals are propagating from at a particular time on one frequency by listening for all of the beacons on that frequency rather than following one beacon through increasingly higher frequencies.

VHF handie-talkies also have lots of memories. Many operators arrange frequencies in banks for ease of recall. Since there are probably more memories than you need, you can program some banks for receive only functions. After programming local repeaters in the first couple of banks, you can use a bank for NOAA weather stations, another for public service stations, such as police and fire and another for AM aircraft frequencies, for instance. Often HTs with extended receive will also receive AM, FM and TV audio broadcast signals, which can be programmed into memory banks. Don't forget the Traveler Information System frequencies, such as 530 or 1610 kHz AM. Reserve one memory bank for your favorite linked repeater systems.

This month's featured linked repeater system is the Condor Connection. Common to all linked repeater systems, the Condor Connection acts as one big wide area repeater. Keying up one repeater keys up the entire system, which is on line and ready to use 24 hours per day. Only occasionally will one repeater be taken out of the circuit for emergency or special event use. The system integrates the operation of 15 privately owned repeaters with coverage from Northern California to Baja California, into the Central Valley and portions of Nevada, Arizona and Utah. The system is an open system with no club participation, no dues and no fees accepted.

Condor operates on the 222 MHz band where propagation is similar to the 2 meter band, but generally with less traffic. One of the early goals of the team that put Condor to-

gether was to encourage more participation on the 1-1/4 meters, which was underutilized at the time in Southern California. The band is now quite active south of the Tehachapi Mountains. Another goal was to provide a total system for use during major disasters. It was used extensively for "health and welfare" traffic after the Loma Prieta earthquake in October of 1989, the Landers earthquake in June of 1992, and the Northridge earthquake in January of 1994. It's popular with travelers between Northern and Southern California. Locations and frequencies of the 15 repeaters are:

Mt. Vaca (Vacaville) 223.84 MHz;
Mt. Hamilton (San Jose) 224.60 MHz;
Goat Mountain (Fresno) 224.90 MHz;
Tassajara Peak (San Luis Obispo) 224.92 MHz;
Shirley Peak (Lake Isabella, near Bakersfield) 224.64 MHz;
Tranquillon Peak (Lompoc) 224.82 MHz;
Frazier Mountain (Gorman) 224.72 MHz;
Quartzite Mountain (Victorville) 223.84 MHz;
Brush Peak (Santa Barbara) 224.00 MHz;
Rasnow Peak (Thousand Oaks) 223.94 MHz;
Santiago Peak (Orange County) 224.82 MHz;
Toro Peak (Palm Springs) 224.18 MHz;
Lyons Peak (San Diego) 223.94 MHz;
Hayden Peak (Kingman, AZ) 224.88 MHz; and
Mt. Potosi (Las Vegas, NV) 224.90 MHz.

All repeaters in the system require a PL tone of 156.7 Hz for access except for the Mt. Vaca and Lyons Peak repeaters, which require 141.3 Hz.

As with all major linked repeater systems, you should keep your calls short since you are engaging repeaters in several states simultaneously. Because of propagation delays, always pause for a second or so after keying up to allow all repeaters in the system to come up. Also pause between transmissions in order to allow possible emergency breaks since travelers use this system extensively. The United States is unique in using the 1-1/4 meter band. Not many radios are available, but some are coming to market now that there is enough activity to make it worthwhile for the manufacturers and dealers to provide the radios. The newest addition to the arsenal is the new Kenwood TH-F6A tri-band HT, which includes the 222 MHz FM band. Maps and diagrams of the Condor Connection can be found at <http://www.condor-connection.org/>.

Some operators who have recently upgraded are practicing to increase their CW speed. A common question involves the "modes" used by electronic keyers. All iambic keyers will send a string of "dits" when the dit paddle is activated, a series of "dahs" when the dah paddle is activated and will alternate between dits and dahs when both paddles are held closed.

In Mode A, if both paddles are released as a dit is being sent, the dit is completed then keying stops. Likewise if both paddles are released as a dah is being sent, the dah is completed then keying stops.

(Continued on page 107) PAARA Ponderings



WEB WANDERINGS

de Vic Black, AB6SO

Shakespeare's Centerpin Technology, Inc. has expanded its line of award winning cable connectors. Go to <http://www.centerpin.com> for an animated presentation of connectors being assembled to coaxial cable. The high performance battery

terminal and coaxial cable connectors are described as watertight, and install in seconds with no special requirements, no wire stripping, no solder and no heat shrinking. They can be installed using only an ordinary standard pair of needle-nose pliers. To install the connectors, you first cut the cable end clean and flush. Using the pliers, shape the end of the cable to its original round shape. Slide the end cap and sealing O-ring onto the cable end. Push the connector body flush with the end of the cable and with the connector center pin in contact with the cable center conductor. Squeeze the braid piercing fingers through the cable jacket into the cable braid. Screw the knurled end cap onto the connector body to finish the connector. The connectors work on both stranded and solid center conductor cables. The original patent was for a PL-259 connector. The line now includes gold plated 1/4 inch phono plugs, F-connectors, N-connectors, TNC, BNC, mini UHF and ring terminals. I found the connectors available at retail locally at West Marine. They are pricier than the flea market connectors that require stripping and soldering, but they may be good as emergency back up connectors for field use since they don't require special installation tools and they work every time. New connectors won't be of much use, though, if we don't have the ham bands to use them on.

Steve Stearns K6OIK sent along some web sites for us to peruse concerning legislation that may have a serious impact on the future of some of our main VHF bands. He said, "On Monday, October 29, the ARRL issued a 'call to arms' to all hams concerning an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making that would modify the Part 15 rules and put the bottom part of the 70 cm amateur band in jeopardy by allowing interference from Part 15 devices. See <http://www.arrl.org:80/news/features/2001/10/24/1/?nc=1>. All amateurs should read the information and follow the procedure to file comments with the FCC. You should file comments online because the FCC may not be accepting or reading US mail at this time.

A discussion of current Part 15 rules is on the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org:80/tis/info/part15.html>.

For techies, there is a very nice tutorial paper that explains the restrictions currently in FCC Part 15. It is intended for RF and communication engineers, and discusses the engineering implications of the rules. The article is: **F. L. Dacus**, 'Understanding Regulations For Short-Range Radios,' *Microwaves & RF*, vol. 40, no. 10, pp. 79-96, October 2001. It is available as a 352kbyte pdf file from <http://www.planetee.com/mwrf/>

On a separate matter, Adcon Telemetry's 433 MHz wireless telemetry modems are advertised on p. 90 of *RF Design* magazine, July 2001 issue. The units are clearly being marketed to the general public. The company is located in Austria. As I indicated previously, these devices transmit 10 milliwatts, putting them well over the legal field strength limits under both current and proposed Part 15 rules." In a similar vein, Steve has drawn our attention to a new threat against communications towers.

You may be aware that the National Audubon Society is coming out against communication towers. See the recent article at http://magazine.audubon.org/features0109/faulty_towers.html

Locally, the local Santa Clara Valley chapter of the Audubon Society is campaigning against the construction of antenna towers by AM radio station KYCY. The contact person is **Kelly Crowley** at 408-252-3747.

The Audubon Society folks are relying on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service research. See info at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/tblcont.html>. Also look at <http://www.towerkill.com>.

The problem is a lot of dead birds, particularly migratory songbirds, are being found dead at the base of communication towers. Biologists and ornithologists don't know what's causing the bird kills. They seem to think that the kills are due to hard-contact collisions with towers and/or guy wires. The problem does appear to be exacerbated by tower lighting, which apparently attracts birds.

Unfortunately, the science is skimpy. The researchers haven't considered all factors, especially the effect of RF exposure on bird's brains and eyes. The Fish and Wildlife Service has an evaluation form for collecting data and evaluating communication towers. Nowhere on the form is there a place to record RF parameters: transmitter frequency, power, effective radiated power, or specific absorption rate (SAR). They don't distinguish between towers and antennas or between MF and UHF, e.g. an AM broadcast tower versus a tower that supports UHF and microwave antennas. Apparently all towers are equally bad, especially tall ones. Considering the national concern and litigation over cell phones that transmit a few hundred milliwatts one or two inches from human skulls, you would think the bird biologists would have figured out that birds that fly too close to antennas transmitting kilowatts to Megawatts might be getting too much RF !!!

I am skeptical of the hard-contact collision mechanism of death that's postulated. As far as I can determine, no researcher has photographed collisions.

Rather than lobbying for restrictions on tower height, the Audubon Society could help birds more by lobbying for SAR limits for antennas on base stations and towers, and moving tower lights away from the high SAR areas on existing towers, i.e. move tower lights up or down along the tower to attract the birds away from high RF danger zones. Antenna engineers are capable of designing low SAR antennas for towers and base stations. My colleagues at TRW

(Continued on page 105) Web Wanderings

1952

2001

PAARA ANNUAL HAM AUCTION

Friday December 7, 2001
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street; Menlo Park

7:30 to 9:30 PM
7:30 Doors Open & Setup
8:00 Auction Starts

FREE GOURMET COFFEE
FREE GOURMET COOKIES
NO ADMISSION FEES or TABLE CHARGES

Plenty of "NEW" & OLD Equipment, Parts & Kits
Bring Your Equipment and Cash or Check Book

Sellers:

PAARA Members may have their Ham Equipment & Parts Auctioned or they can be donated to the club. Sale proceeds are then a donation to PAARA. There will be a PAARA Table for small donated items (\$0.10 to \$10) Sellers must collect cash or check from buyer & handle any equipment problems All sellers pay PAARA a 20% commission on total sale price

Buyers:

Anyone may attend and purchase equipment & parts
Buyer deals directly with seller on cash or check & any equipment problems

PAARA Auction.11.14.01

Auction Item Tag	Auction Item Tag	PAARA Auction	Seller	Lot#
PAARA Auction Please Complete and Tape to Equipment				
Lot#	Manufacturer:	Model #:		

FOR SALE Make Offer

Gestetner Model 366 1958 Printing Press w/ ink, paper & stencils (Up to 5000 copies/stencil)
 Regiflex Printer for ICs and Transistors, etc. Circa 1950

Transistor/Diode/FET Tester, Raytheon, Circa 1968, uses RTL logic IBM card readers
 Kaypro 4-84 CPM Computer, Ser#114262 (1984) Museum Quality, with padded case, manuals, etc.

Hallicrafters S36A receiver, 3-300 MHz?, needs dial cord, switch cleaning

Hallicrafters SX-100 Receiver, .5-34 MHz

Conelrad Receiver, Circa 1959

6 Meter AM Transmitter, 100 W 6146

Collins 75A4 with Noise Blanker, Damp Chaser and Panadapter

Military Panadapter for 10.7 MHz IF

Tape Deck for automatic transmission of CQ, etc. Circa 1959

Dual 0-300 VDC @ 200 mA Power supply with meters

Big Military Power Supply 300 V, 150V +/- Regulated

68 Foot Rohn Fold-over Tower

Search Receiver 50-54 MHz, Mechanical/electronic Circa 1959

6 Foot 19" relay Rack, black

2 4 Foot 19" Console relay rack, gray

19" Rack panels, Steel and Aluminum

FET ? Tester Table Top Console, Blue

Audio Amplifier 50+ Watts, Tube, Home brew

Audio Amplifier 5 Watts, Transistor

Power supply parts 2500/4500 V, Military

Oscilloscope, Heath OM1 ?

EF Johnson 6n2 6 Meter & 2 Meter AM/CW Transmitter

2 Meter Linear Amplifier 75-100 W uses 5894 Tube

Ratio Scale 1:99 1:999, about 2# capacity, very sensitive

GE Model 150 Portable Radio BC band, Circa 1954

Motorola Model 52R15 Table Radio BC band, Circa 1952

1983 Porsche 944 with low mileage

Doug Schliebus, K1DIT

35 Ranch Road

Woodside, CA 94062-4809

Tel: 650-851-8354 Tel/Fax: 650-851-8354

2 November 2001

Doug, K1DIT, past PAARA Treasurer, is selling out and moving to Washington next month

(Continued from page 102) *Web Wanderings*

Electromagnetic Systems Laboratory designed such an antenna for cellular base stations, and we point out the environmental benefits in promotional literature.

I think the ARRL should monitor the anti-tower movement. It doesn't appear to be a threat to amateur radio, but public sympathies can change. Someone needs to do some science to figure out the causative mechanism in these bird kills. Maybe ARRL could survey members via a question on the ARRL web site. What happened to the birds sitting in a row on the beam pictured on the cover of QST? They looked happy to me. **Steve Stearns, K6OIK.**

Notice that Steve pointed out that "the science is skimpy". Maybe, if we looked hard and long, we'd find dead birds at many sites other than tower (and wind generator) sites. I found a couple of dead birds on my roof last time I was up there. There wasn't anything for them to collide with on the roof. I don't have either a tower or windmill. Could it be that some anti-technical people don't understand the difference between cause and effect on one hand and coincidence on the other? A couple of other fallacious arguments are circulating right now and leading to restrictive legislation.

It was recently pointed out that frozen rivers in Alaska were thawing several weeks earlier than they did in 1917, so that "proves" that we are quickly entering a global warming scenario. Wrong. It turns out that 1917 was the coldest winter on record for the past 150 years. The current thaw rate is consistent with a normal climate year. The anomaly was in 1917.

Several states are now considering bans on use of all hand held communications devices while driving. This could affect us as Amateur Radio operators. A careful reading of the statistics for the past 10 years shows that the number of drivers and miles driven have increased considerably while the number of cell phone users has increased 100 fold. At the same time, the numbers of accidents and fatal accidents have decreased. Maybe we should require every driver to use hand held communication devices because the statistics really are saying that their use results in a decrease in accidents. But that's not right, either. The truth is probably that although it's irritating to get stuck behind a distracted driver, cell phone use probably doesn't actually lead to more accidents. Then why would anyone want to ban their use without "hand free" devices and who is pushing for the new laws? It turns out that the people who want the new laws are the same ones who originally sold the phones. Their market is reaching saturation and they need a new source of income. Mandatory after market devices would open up a whole new market for them. It pays to always question "statistics" that appear too obvious.

—Vic AB6SO

How to succeed: try hard enough.

How to fail: Try too hard.

—Macolm Forbes



Web Censorship

Is the PAARA Web Site Illegal?

by Vic Black AB6SO

For some time now, I've been pointing out that the Internet is rapidly changing. Many formerly free sites are beginning to charge for information similar to television's "pay per view". Many web sites that were very complete a few years ago haven't been regularly updated and now are becoming outdated. Now comes word of government censorship of web sites.

HR 4577, recently enacted by Congress, requires all public schools K-12 and public libraries that receive certain types of federal funding and provide Internet access to use software "filters" to block most Internet access. This censorship of web access is intended to protect children from potentially harmful content. Entire categories of subjects are automatically banned and include electronic e-commerce, employment search, free mail, free web pages, video games, jokes and humorous stories, message bulletin boards, news, recreation and entertainment, sports and stock trading.

Since approximately 40% of all children get their Internet exposure at school, this means that those children will only be able to view content deemed acceptable by the censorship software installed on their school computers. Since October 28, 2001 schools are required to file FCC Form 479, Certificate of Compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The filtering software bans free web site hosting services, such as the site used by PAARA, because they may possibly be "uncontrolled". The result is that most students will now only be able to access edu.com, gov.com and some commercial sites operated by news media specifically for children. The gov.com sites are quickly being sanitized to hide content from potential terrorists. Most private web sites, such as PAARA's, are prohibited. In fact, most of the Internet is banned from schools because someone, someplace may find some of the content to be potentially objectionable. Not only that, but since the filtering software is readily available, many private companies may begin to install the filters in order to prevent employees from accessing potentially harmful, or politically incorrect, or objectionable content.

Some common web sites that are banned by the new filtering software are listed below:

Sites offering access to online auctions may expose users to material that would otherwise be filtered under categories such as Pornography, Weapons, Lingerie, or Violence and include <http://www.ebay.com/>, <http://auctions.yahoo.com/> and <http://auctions.amazon.com/>. Also banned are sites that pose a risk by offering on-line purchases of items that might be banned under those same categories and include <http://www.amazon.com/> and <http://www.cdnw.com/>.

Sites that offer access to online chat rooms are banned since they allow users to download chat software that enables online posting and receiving of real-time messages.

(Continued on page 107) *Web Censorship*



Thoughts

What's In a Call Sign?

— Vic Black AB6SO

Call signs are meant to be meaningless station identifiers, but over time they tend to take on personalities of their own. They become an important part of our identities.

Some people are better known internationally by their call signs than by their names. Until we had vanity call signs available, they were issued sequentially and we generally didn't have much control over what call sign was assigned to us. That hasn't always been the case, though. During the 1920s the FCC generally reserved call signs in the form W#Yx for issue to college club stations only. Local examples are **W6YX**, issued to **Stanford Amateur Radio Club**, and **W6YU**, issued to **College of San Mateo**. Many of those original call signs have survived until today. Still others in that series are issued to non-college club stations. A quick review of the FCC database came up with the following list of W#Yx college club calls. Is your alma mater listed here?

W1YA, University of Maine
 W1YK, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Wireless Assoc
 W1YU, Yale Univ ARC
 W3YI, U of Pittsburgh ARA
 W3YP, Villanova Univ ARC
 W5YD, Mississippi State Univ ARC
 W5YF, ARS of Southern Methodist Univ
 W5YG, Rice Univ ARC
 W5YJ, Oklahoma State Univ ARC
 W5YM, ARC of Univ of Arkansas
 W5YW, Louisiana State Univ ARC
 JW6YU, College of San Mateo ARC
 W6YV, Univ of Southern California ARC
 W6YX, Stanford ARC
 W7YB, Montana State Univ ARC
 W7YD, Univ of Washington ARC
 W7YH, Rho Epsilon ARC (Washington State Univ.)
 W8YX, Univ of Cincinnati ARC
 W8YY, Husky ARC (Michigan Tech Univ.)
 W9YB, Purdue ARC
 W9YH, Synton ARC (Univ of Illinois)
 W9YJ, De Pauw Univ ARC
 W9YT, Badger ARS (Univ of Wisconsin)
 W9YV, UWMARS Alumni Booster Club
 W9YW, Rho Epsilon ARA
 W0YC, University of Minnesota
 W0YI, Campus Radio Club, Ames, Iowa
 W0YO, Graceland College ARC
 W0YQ, University of Colorado ARC.

Look for them on the air, especially during contests.

Web site links for these and other collegiate call signs can be found at <http://www.uark.edu/studorg/w5ym/clubs.html> and <http://www.ipass.net/~jimprice/clubs>. —Vic AB6SO



ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT
 November 15, 2001

To all radio amateurs:
 ARLB048 FCC Announces

Mail Changes for Gettysburg Office

The FCC's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, office has moved its mailroom offsite. Effective immediately, all overnight couriers—including FedEx and UPS—require the "ship to" address for the FCC Gettysburg office to be Rear entrance, 35 York St, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

The FCC said it's trying to balance accessibility with the need for heightened security and encouraged its customers to make full use of the Commission's electronic filing systems. The Gettysburg office is where Amateur Radio applications are processed and licenses issued by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. It's also where Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has his office.

The change does not affect US Postal Service deliveries. The FCC said the USPS will continue to accept and will divert all mail addressed to 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg—the office's physical location—to the off-site mailroom. Until November 30, the FCC itself will divert overnight courier deliveries to 1270 Fairfield Road to the new off-site mailroom.

"This new off-site mailroom facility does not affect applications or any other filings requiring a fee," an FCC Public Notice said. Unless paid on-line using a credit card, amateur vanity call sign fees go to the FCC's contractor in Pittsburgh. Requests for amateur fee refunds, however, are sent to Gettysburg.

The FCC also said the staff at the Gettysburg filing counter at 35 York Street will not accept hand-delivered documents enclosed in envelopes. The filing counter is open weekdays 8 AM until 4:30 PM. Originals and copies of each official filing must continue to be addressed to the Commission and held together with rubber bands or fasteners. "Stamp and return" copies will be provided as long as they clearly accompany each individual filing.

Filings requesting confidential treatment under the Commission's rules must also be filed without envelopes. The staff at the filing counter will enclose such filings in an FCC envelope labeled "confidential."

Questions concerning the FCC Public Notice should be directed to the Building and Facility Management Specialist, rhewitt@fcc.gov or 717-338-2535. NNNN /EX

PAARA Radio NET

every Monday evening
 8:30 P.M., local time
 on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater
 PL tone off

(Continued from page 101) PAARA Ponderings

In Mode B, if both paddles are released as a dit is being sent, the dit is completed, followed automatically by a dah, then keying stops. If both paddles are released in Mode B as a dah is being sent, the dah is completed, followed automatically by a dit, then keying stops. Mode B seems to be the most popular even though it's easy to send an unwanted dit or dah if the paddle is held a little too long, since the paddle must be released before the last iambic dit or dah begins. The advantage of Mode B is that some characters allow releasing the paddles a little earlier and may result in slightly less movement of the hand in sending CW. Operators who become accustomed to Mode B often make errors when using Mode A because they will often miss forming the last iambic dit or dah. Most modern radios with built in keyers allow menu selection of the mode you prefer. They will also allow selecting which paddle you want to use for dits and which for dahs. The "standard" was established by the Vibroplex semi-automatic, mechanical keyers. They used the right fore finger to form dahs (for right handed operators). The thumb formed the dits. A "quick and dirty" way to change the dit and dah sides is to turn the paddles around 180 degrees in front of you, place your hand on top of the paddles and then key. Some right-handed operators prefer to learn keyer paddle use with the left hand. This frees up the right hand for tuning the radio and writing or computer operation. The best way to learn paddle use, even if you can copy high speed CW, is to start off slowly and increase speed as you become accustomed to the new speed. After practicing for an appropriate amount of time, most operators can learn to send easily at 35 to 45 words per minute. Much higher speeds are possible, but require increasing concentration. Really high speed CW is usually done with a computer keyboard.

—Vic AB6SO

(Continued from page 105) Web Censorship

Sites that offer job listings are banned, as are any that offer free e-mail accounts that may expose users to uncensored e-mail attachments. Examples are <http://www.hotmail.com/> and <http://mail.yahoo.com/>.

All sites are banned that contain news articles that are available in a newspaper, periodical, or a newscast. An example would be <http://www.cnn.com/>.

Search engines, useful for researching school projects, are banned since there is no guarantee that they have been adequately "filtered". Some common ones are <http://www.altavista.com/>, <http://www.lycos.com/> and <http://www.yahoo.com/>.

For a much longer listing and further information, go to http://www.n2h2.com/solutions/filtering_info/filter_categories.php and <http://www.filteringinfo.org> assuming you are not a student at a public school and therefore can access these pages.



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PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members.

(short personal ads remain free for members in good standing)

All ad rates listed are per issue only.

1. Not for profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size).

2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association.

The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association. All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. Give payment and copy to Bob Korte

PAARA • Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association • P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911

• Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA. •

• Radio NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 MHz repeater, PL tone off. •

Membership in PAARA is \$12.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAgaphs, \$6 for additional family members (no newsletter).

Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

Permission is granted to reprint from this publication with appropriate source credit.

PAARAgraphs December 2001

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